

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-14

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P R 190622Z JUN 74
FM AMCONSUL NAHA
TO AMEMB TOKYO
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1426
USARBCO FORT BUCKNER
313TH AD KADENA
MARCORB CAMP BUTLER
COMFLEACTS OKINAWA
COMUSJ FUCHU JAPAN

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E. O. 11652: NA
TAGS: MARR, JA
SUBJ: KOSAKA STATEMENT ON BASES
SUMMARY: OKINAWA DEVELOPMENT MINISTER KOSAKA HAS TOLD THE PRESS HE
ASKED FOREIGN MINISTER OHIRA TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE AMERICANS VARIOUS
MATTERS AFFECTING OUR BASE INTERESTS ON OKINAWA. THESE INCLUDE
ENDING MARINE MANUEVERS IN THE NORTHERN RESERVOIR AREA AND POSSIBLY
MOVING THE IE-SHIMA AERIAL RANGE. THIS IS CLEARLY AN EFFORT TO

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FORECLOSE LEFTIST ELECTION ISSUES, BUT IT SEEMS HIGHLY UNFORTUNATE
THAT A GOJ MINISTER HAS ENDORSED THESE POSITIONS IN PUBLIC.
END SUMMARY.

1. THE LOCAL PRESS JUNE 17-18 CARRIED AS A NON-HEADLINE STORY
AN INTERVIEW IN TOKYO BY OKINAWA DEVELOPMENT AGENCY MINISTER
TOKUSABURO KOSAKA IN WHICH HE ACCOUNTS SEVEN REQUESTS CONCERN-
ING U.S. BASES IN OKINAWA HE MADE OF FOREIGN MINISTER OHIRA IN
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THE JUNE 16 CABINET MEETING. KOSAKA TOLD THE PRESS THAT THESE

WERE CONCERNS OF THE OKINAWANS THAT HIS AGENCY COULD NOT HANDLE DIRECTLY BUT NEEDED TO BE RESOLVED BY DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE GOJ AND USG. KOSAKA SAID HE ASKED AS FOLLOWS:

A. THAT, SINCE IT APPEARED DIFFICULT TO REACH THE SPRING DEAD-LINE FOR THE MOVE OF THE P-3'S FROM NAHA TO KADENA, ALL EFFORTS BE MADE TO ENSURE THE MOVE ON TIME.

B. THAT THE MARINES STOP USE OF THE NORTHERN TRAINING AREA RESERVOIR AREAS FOR MANUEVERS. HE ADDED HE PERSONALLY WOULD APPEAL TO THE EMBASSY AND USFJ ON THIS.

C. THAT ROUTE 104, OVER WHICH THE MARINES ARE NOW FIRING ARTIL-

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LERY, BE SHIFTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO FORECLOSE THE NEED TO CLOSE IT OFF DURING THE ARTILLERY PRACTICE.

D. THAT THE SITE OF THE AIR FORCE IE-SHIMA GUNNERY AND AND BOMBING RANGE BE SHIFTED TO A DESERTED ISLAND SINCE ITS PRESENT SITE IS DANGEROUS TO THE PEOPLE.

E. THE OTHER THREE POINTS CONCERNED COOPERATION ON REMOVAL OF OLD DUD ORDINANCE, HASTENING LAND SURVEY ON RETURNED BASE PROPERTIES, AND GIVING A PIECE OF LAND OUT OF NAHA BASE FOR AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

2. COMMENT: DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO OKINAWA KOSAKA MADE APPROPRIATE NOISES ABOUT THE NEED FOR "QUIET DEVELOPMENT" OF THE ISLAND. THE ABOVE STATEMENT MAY BE INTERPRETED AS ANOTHER EFFORT BY HIM AS THE CONSERVATIVE LEADER CHARGED WITH OKINAWAN AFFAIRS TO PREEMPT IN THE PRE-ELECTION PERIOD LEFTIST ISSUES ON OKINAWA. THE TWO LEFTIST NEWSPAPERS, PROBABLY RECOGNIZING THIS, DOWNPLAYED THE STORY. STILL IT SEEMS TO US APPALLING THAT KOSAKA WOULD GIVE HIS PUBLIC BLESSING TO THE PHONY BUT EMOTIONALLY BASED CHARGES ON THE MARINES HARMING THE RESERVOIR WATERS. EVEN MORE UNSETTLING IS KOSAKA RAISING THE QUESTION OF MOVING THE IE-SHIMA RANGE. LEAVING OUT ONE MINOR COMMUNIST GROUP (SEPTTEL), THIS IS THE FIRST TIME IN THE LAST YEAR ANY PUBLIC ATTENTION HAS BEEN FOCUSED ON THIS VITAL AMERICAN FACILITY. SYLVESTER

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